

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 13th December 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi" ... ..	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong	600	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	30th November 1879.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	2nd December 1879.
7	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	671	2nd ditto.
8	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	2,000	
9	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān	296	2nd ditto.
10	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	30th November & 7th December 1879.
11	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	5th December 1879.
12	"Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..	Dacca	300	29th November & 6th December 1879.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	3rd December 1879.
14	"Howrah Hitakari" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah	400	
15	"Medini" ... ..	Midnapore	250	
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	5th ditto.
17	"Navavibhakar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	8th ditto.
18	"Pratikar" ... ..	Berhampore	275	5th ditto.
19	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinia, Rangpore	250	4th ditto.
20	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	7th ditto.
21	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	1st ditto.
22	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	5th ditto.
23	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	350	
24	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Mymensingh	260	1st ditto.
25	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	6th ditto.
26	"Shārad Kaumudī" ... ..	Bhowanipore	300	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
27	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
28	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	700	5th to 9th December 1879.
29	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	6th to 12th ditto.
30	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	3rd to 5th, and 8th to 11th Dec. 1879.
31	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	8th to 12th December 1879.
32	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	5th to 10th ditto.
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
33	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	28th November & 5th December 1879.
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
34	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	365	6th December 1879.
<b>ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.</b>				
<i>Daily.</i>				
35	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader ... ..	Ditto	.....	8th to 13th December 1879.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	500	
37	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	
38	"Jagat Mitra" ... ..	Ditto	157	3rd December 1879.
39	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	200	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	5th ditto.



## POLITICAL.

**SAHACHAR,**  
December 1st, 1879.

The *Sahachar*, of the 1st December, contains an article headed "Lord Beaconsfield's Dream." The writer briefly reviews the leading public acts of Lord

Beaconsfield's administration during the last few years, and, referring to the negotiations of the Government of India with Shere Ali, the declaration of war against Afghanistan, and subsequent events on the north-western frontiers of India, remarks that the chief object of the Premier has been, for a long time past, to checkmate Russia in her policy of aggrandizement in Asia. The acquisition of a vast empire acknowledging the sway of England, and bounded on the east by China, on the south by Burmah, India, Cabul, Persia, and Turkey, has always been the dream of Lord Beaconsfield, and all his efforts have been hitherto directed to this end. It is indeed a grand ambition. His expectations, we admit, have been partially realized. Whether they will be completely fulfilled, it is not easy to say, for man proposeth and God disposeth. One thing, however, is clear; to carry out his projects, an enormous amount of treasure will be necessary. Will England consent to bear the cost of his schemes? India is simply unable to do so. England has been always reputed to be favourable to the cause of freedom and peace; but the policy of Lord Beaconsfield, if persisted in, will destroy this reputation. In his desire to augment the power of England, Lord Beaconsfield has but diminished it.

**ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,**  
December 2nd, 1879.

2. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 2nd December, remarks that by the deposition of Yakub Khan, Government has but increased the difficulties which

were created by the invasion of Afghanistan. Even now, any direct administration of that country by the British does not appear feasible: if it were so, this would but precipitate hostilities with Russia. The Afghans yet seem to cherish a belief that, whether willing or not, the British army will be obliged to leave their country, just as it did once before. This belief, it is probable, has not hitherto disposed them to offer any deadly opposition to the invaders. One thing is certain. They cherish an extreme hatred towards the English, which is not to be effaced soon or easily. They may, in the event of a last struggle for their independence, perhaps reckon upon the support of the Shah of Persia and the Russian Czar. In that case, there will be a formidable war. The longer this evil day is put off the better for the invaders, for if once the British are allowed time to work, they will so entangle the Afghans in the meshes of their diplomacy, that the victims will soon lose all their energy and warlike instincts.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

**HINDU HITASHINI,**  
November 29th, 1879.

3. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Hindu Hitashini*, of the 29th November:—The

An Income Tax.

Trades and Professions Bill recently introduced in the Legislative Council by Sir John Strachey will, if passed into law, prove extremely oppressive in the case of traders. It is really unsatisfactory to find that a distinction has been made between those following any trade or industry and those who are in the enjoyment of a salaried income. The minimum of taxable income is not the same in the two cases. Sir John Strachey is apparently of opinion that a trader whose earnings amount to Rs. 250 in a year may be regarded as being well off; quite ignoring the fact that even those who earn Rs. 600 a year can but with difficulty manage to keep themselves and their families above want. Many of these latter have often to incur debt. It will be really hard if they are now brought under the operation of the License Tax. There would have been no room for uneasiness if, after excluding persons following



any of the learned professions, and possessing incomes below Rs. 1,200 a year, the operation of the proposed tax had been extended to those whose earnings exceeded this figure. As it is, while many members of the legal profession are in the enjoyment of handsome incomes, there are others, again, of whom this cannot be said to be the case. This remark is likewise applicable to the majority of medical practitioners who are not in the service of Government or any private employer. Sir John Strachey appears to have but little knowledge of the real condition of these classes; otherwise he would not have classed them with the other traders in respect to their liability to the proposed tax. Considering that Government is in need of funds, it would be quite ineffectual to protest against the imposition of this tax; but it is not fair to make a distinction as regards its incidence between classes whose social position and circumstances are similar. After taking Sir John Strachey to task for having omitted to express his sympathy for the poor of this country, while he was profuse in expressions of tenderness for the miserable condition of the Europeans and Eurasians, the Editor suggests that if it were really desired to tax people according to their means, the limit of taxable income should be fixed at Rs. 1,200 equally for all classes.

4. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 30th November, contains an article on the Trades and Professions Bill. The Editor's views correspond exactly with those noticed in paragraph 4 of our Report of the 29th ultimo.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,  
November 30th, 1879.

5. The observations made on this subject by the *Dacca Prokash*, of the 30th November, are similar to those noticed in paragraph 4 of our last, and in paragraph 1 of this Report.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
November 30th, 1879.

6. The same paper attributes the introduction in the Legislative Council of the Factories Bill to a desire on the part of Government and the English Ministry to conciliate the self-seeking merchants of Manchester, who are bent upon the ruin of the cloth-mills started in India. The objects and reasons of framing this Bill, as stated by the mover, are described as having been manufactured for the occasion to impose upon the public. The people of this country, however, have now become too experienced to be easily taken in. Considering that there are many classes of men, including those in the service of Government, who are literally worked to death, it is not easy to see why laborers in the Indian factories should be singled out as deserving of special legislation in their favor.

DACCA PRAKASH.

7. On the same subject, the *Sanjivani*, of the 1st December, makes similar observations.

SANJIVANI,  
December 1st 1879.

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 1st December, exhorts the British Indian and the Indian Associations, and other public bodies in this country, to make an united effort in protesting against the proposed Income Tax. The financial policy of the present administration is extremely objectionable. Under Lord Lytton's regime which has failed to secure the least measure of public support, the management of the finances is particularly condemned. There is no necessity of imposing any new tax for purely Indian purposes. The only object seems to be to conciliate Manchester. An appeal should be made to the English nation to put a check upon the extravagant expenditure of the Government of India, and praying that the tax-payers of this country might have some authority granted them for controlling the administration of the finances. A fickle, weak-minded, indiscreet, despotic, and self-conceited Viceroy is at the head of the administration. The Finance Minister is both

SAHACHAR,  
December 1st, 1879.



unpopular and incapable. The really able and experienced members are brow-beaten and insulted. Such, in effect, is the spectacle afforded by the Government of India under the administration of Lord Lytton. This is the time to appeal to the sense of justice of the English nation for an amelioration of our political condition.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
December 2nd, 1879.

9. In continuation of the observations noticed in paragraph 7 of our Report of the 29th ultimo, we extract the following remarks from an article in the

*Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 2nd December:—The sad state, as regards means of defence against the ravages of wild beasts, to which the rulers have reduced Jessore and other districts, is such that, not to speak of tigers, the inhabitants are not even in a position to kill rabid jackals, if these should appear in a village at any time.

We do not see what necessity there was of disarming the people of India, especially the people of Bengal. We could understand the meaning of this measure if its operation were at least confined to those provinces of India where the inhabitants are warlike, physically strong, or skilled in the use of fire-arms. As it is, in Bengal a few only possess guns; which, again, are broken and not in working order. Many even of those who possess this weapon are so nervous that they would faint if they heard the report of a gun. A Government which has not the courage to allow old and broken fire-arms to remain in the possession of such a people, surely deserves to be an object of derision. The saying that men sometimes act under the influence of an evil genius is peculiarly applicable to the case of the present Governor-General, who, in passing the Press Act and the Arms Act, must have been under the domination of an evil spirit. Both these measures are equally ridiculous, and evince the weakness and want of foresight on the part of the rulers.

Russia is India's great enemy, and is making rapid advances in the direction of this country. Others may not fear her much, but the members of the present administration have really become uneasy on her account. To this fear of Russia is to be attributed the bringing about of the Cabul War, the imposition of the Income Tax, the Public Works Cess, and the License Tax, and the diversion of the Famine Fund, which it was solemnly pledged would not be applied to any other purpose than that of famine relief. To the same cause is to be attributed the massacre of Cavagnari, the rupture with Shere Ali, the old ally of Government, and the deplorable condition of the finances at the present time. This fear of Russia should have led Government to desist from passing such measures as the Press Act and the Arms Act. By enacting them Government has but let the enemy know that it is hated by the people, that they are disloyal, that no friendly feelings subsist between the rulers and the subjects, and that the people have grown so powerful that, to curb their power, the authorities have been obliged to have recourse to such objectionable measures as those referred to. That such impressions have been produced in the minds of the Russians there can be no room for doubt; and the more they are confirmed, the more desirous Russia will be of invading India. She doubtless believes that her army has only to reach the frontier of India, and the people will take up arms against the British Government. We do not see why Government should be disarming us as vigorously as they are bent upon disarming the lawless inhabitants of Cabul. Do the rulers regard the people of India as being equally guilty of sedition? If they do not, why is this rigorous administration kept in force, which, among other things, seriously hampers agriculture and leads to loss of life and property? The provisions of the Arms Act have been more rigorously enforced in Jessore than in any other districts of Bengal, not even excepting Backergunge, where the people are extremely turbulent and frequently fight with firearms.



10. The same paper protests against the statement made by Sir John Strachey in the course of his recent speech in the Legislative Council, that a man with an income of Rs. 100 a year in India is not poor. This is a dangerous assertion, in spite of the fact that all persons possessing this income have been exempted from liability to the License Tax. Those, however, that have been thus favored have not been exempted on the ground of their poverty, but simply because the authorities chose to show them some mercy. In support of his statement, Sir John Strachey referred to Sir Ashley Eden, who confirmed it, and remarked that those who took any other view of the matter must be wholly ignorant of the true condition of the country. This reminds one of Khoná's famous astrological verses, in which, after laying down the rules for predicting whether a woman who is *enceinte*, will be delivered of a son or daughter, she concludes by positively asserting that should the predictions prove false, the child must be regarded as illegitimate. Sir Ashley Eden talks much in the same positive manner; yet we do not see what right he has for affecting such an acquaintance with the people of India. While serving in subordinate capacities in Bengal many years ago, and in connection with the indigo riots, Sir Ashley indeed had opportunities of acquiring some degree of experience, which was further somewhat enlarged by his freely mixing with the people of this country. But of the people of India he knows but little, and even the knowledge he has of Bengal, having been acquired many years ago, is not of much use, more specially as, owing to a rise in prices, a great change has taken place in the condition of the people during late years. By, however, exempting persons with an income of Rs. 100 a year from liability to the License Tax, both Sir John Strachey and Sir Ashley Eden have but indirectly shown that they were wrong when they made the statement referred to.

11. The same paper regrets to notice that the Secretary of State has disallowed the scheme of appellate benches submitted by the Government of India for his sanction. This fact but shows the utter powerlessness of not only the Lieutenant-Governors and Governors, but of the Governor-General also, to undertake and carry out any measure which may be considered beneficial. It is really sad to think that a scheme which had the support of, and the necessity of which had been recognized by, the people, two successive Lieutenant-Governors and the Chief Justice of Bengal, and even the Viceroy, should have been so carelessly disposed of by the Secretary of State.

12. In its issue of the 2nd December, the *Bhārat Mihir* contains an article headed "An Endless War." The Editor points out that from the date of the battle of Plassey down to the present time there has gone on a ceaseless struggle in this country between Europeans and natives with regard to their rights and privileges. It is not his object in this article to refer to the real wars that have taken place in India during this period, but to dwell upon the struggles more numerous, while equally disastrous in their consequences, which the people have had to make to obtain privileges connected with their interests or happiness. There was indeed no war, with all its grim realities, when one native State after another was annexed to the British Empire; but, although there was no actual bloodshed, the blood of the inhabitants had turned chill in their veins. The petitions which were successively sent to England cost a sum which might purchase as large a state as that country. How many states, again, there have been which came to acknowledge the sway of Great Britain without there having been any need on her part to appeal to arms. Still the conflict is not at an end. How long will this state of things continue? How long will the people have the patience to carry on a war against the rulers? Turn to the files of newspapers for the last hundred

Appellate benches in the mofussil.

Conflicting interests of Europeans and natives.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
December 2nd, 1879.



years, and you will there find evidence showing the existence of these disputes. But what is the good of perpetuating this state of matters, since, as far as the people are concerned, there is no probability of their ever coming out victorious in the contest? If any dispute or difference takes place between the dark-skinned native and the pettiest officer owning a white skin, the latter is sure to win his case, however wrong he may be proved to have been. When has a native been successful in such cases? Since the chronicles of the last seven or eight hundred years do not record a single instance of success obtained by the people, why then continue to indulge in expectations for the future? The people and their newspapers were indeed successful in their protests against the Income Tax which, in consequence, was abolished. But the blood-thirsty monster has again appeared under a new name; and all remonstrances against it, whether in English or Bengali, must prove quite ineffectual. The natives have been similarly the losers in the civil service question; in the matter of the cotton duties and of factory labor in India.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
December 2nd, 1879.

13. The same paper remarks that India is the milch cow to the people of England, especially to the merchants of Manchester, who are sucking it dry. To gratify

The Factories Bill.

them, Government has introduced a Bill to regulate factory labor in this country, the only object of which measure is to ruin the cloth-mills of Bombay. It was proposed to exclude all laborers employed in the railway or military workshops from the operation of this Bill, thus making it clear that the real object is to impoverish the natives alone.

BHARAT MIHIR.

14. The same paper remarks that Sir John Strachey has betrayed a lamentable ignorance of the condition of the people by asserting that a man whose annual earnings amount to Rs. 100 is placed above poverty. Sir John apparently is not aware that the rule that "every one for himself," which is the guiding maxim of English life, is not followed by the natives of India, who live in joint families.

Who is a poor person?

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,  
December 2nd, 1879.

15. The *Bardwán Sanjivani*, of the 2nd December, refers to the hardship which will be caused by the imposition of an Income Tax. Even those who are in receipt of liberal salaries will not be able to pay it without difficulty, for, owing to high prices and the habits of luxury which they have contracted, their income is barely sufficient to meet their expenditure.

An Income Tax.

MURSHIDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
December 5th, 1879.

16. On the same subject, the *Murshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 5th December, makes remarks similar to those noticed in paragraph 7 of our last Report.

An Income Tax.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
December 7th, 1879.

17. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 7th December, fully approves of the proposal made by the *Navavibhakar*, and noticed in paragraph 17 of our last report. In connection with the procedure suggested by that paper, the Editor adds that the District Judge should permit a Hindu widow possessed of immovable property bequeathed to her by her husband to dispose of only so much of it as would suffice for the purpose of securing her means of support. The legislation proposed is urgently required in the interests of helpless Hindu widows.

Legislation on behalf of Hindu widows.

SADHARANI,  
December 7th, 1879.

18. The *Sádháraní*, of the 7th December, remarks that in this hour of India's poverty, even the slightest burden of taxation presses severely upon her inhabitants. That the new tax will aggravate their distress, every native of India can freely declare on oath. Among a population of 200 millions, only half-a-dozen foreigners will perhaps maintain a different view. And yet these half-a-dozen foreigners constitute their earthly Providence, on whose caprices and

An Income Tax.



whims their weal and woe depend. There is no one to befriend the people of India, who seem to be born in this country only to endure hardship. The License Tax and the other taxes have been imposed because Government is in need of funds. It was hoped that the schemes of reduction of expenditure which were promulgated by Government would, if carried out, result in saving and a remission of taxation; but retrenchments have not been made on an adequate scale, and the result is that an Income Tax under a new form has become inevitable.

The provision in the Bill relating to the exemption of incomes below Rs. 250 a year from liability to the tax is the only redeeming feature in this otherwise objectionable measure. As regards the incidence of this tax, Government, however, has made a most invidious distinction between traders and persons in the enjoyment of salaried incomes, in favour of the latter. The minimum limit should be fixed at Rs. 1,200 equally for all.

19. The same paper complains that certain Anglo-Indian papers, notably the *Bombay Gazette*, the *Englishman*, and the *Pioneer*, are exceedingly fond of imputing disloyalty to the natives of India. What good they reap by this means is not clear; the injury to the people of India is doubtless great. The latter are exceedingly loyal to Her Majesty, and desire the continuance of her rule; the danger, therefore, of such frequent accusations is that the accused get familiarized with the idea of disloyalty.

20. The same paper defends the existing practice of using court fee stamps, and points out its superior advantages as compared with the difficulties attending the use of stamped papers.

21. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 8th December, thus writes regarding the address presented to Lord Lytton by the inhabitants of Delhi, and his reply thereto:—Referring to this address, fault-finding critics have already begun to remark that, on the eve of his departure from this country, Lord Lytton is anxious to secure a few congratulatory addresses that he may be able to convince the English nation of the fact that he has been popular, and that the people of India have approved of his public acts and policy. As a matter of fact, however, His Excellency has been singularly unfortunate as regards popularity. Others again believe that the people of Delhi really ridiculed him by thus presenting him an address. The truth is they have but given expression to their loyal views; and fatalists like other people of India as they are, they have not hesitated to congratulate Lord Lytton on the success of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi—a costly affair which was most unwisely undertaken at a time when India was passing through a famine. They have likewise commended the Viceroy's Afghan policy, which has done more harm than good. They have further referred to the Famine Fund, and given His Excellency credit for creating it: although no mention has been made thereof in the new Trades and Professions Bill. A succession of calamities, some caused by man and others inflicted by Providence, have befallen this country under the administration of Lord Lytton. Famines, taxation, and over-legislation have been the order of the day. Add to this the curtailing by Government of the rights and privileges enjoyed by the people. It would be no exaggeration to say that under his *regime* not one measure has been adopted for their benefit. His reply shows that he is painfully conscious of the failure of his administration.

22. The same paper condemns the proposal to establish permanently the head-quarters of the Government of India at Simla. The proposal, if carried out, will but increase public expenditure. It is indeed strange that while former Governors-General, like Lord Wellesley, could

SADHARANI,  
December 7th, 1879.

SADHARANI.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
December 8th, 1879.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

The *Bombay Gazette* and discontent in Southern India.

The address to Lord Lytton by the citizens of Delhi.

Simla as the permanent head-quarters of the Government of India.



mature and carry out their schemes of conquest from the council-chamber at Calcutta, Viceroys, since the time of Lord Lawrence, have not been able to do without the annual exodus to the hills. Of late, however, the period of these sojournings have been extended. A transfer of the seat of Government to Simla will destroy the importance and prestige of Calcutta, its trade and wealth. Another question which arises in this connection is, will those who are likely to be allowed to proceed to Simla be granted equal pay with those who may have to labor in the heat of the plains?

#### EDUCATION.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

23. The same paper suggests that the University examinations should begin in May instead of as now in December.

Suggestions connected with the University examinations.

This would enable the candidates to do much work during the cold season—the time best suited for labor in this country. As it is, while they enjoy rest in December and January, they are obliged to work hard in the hot season, when all arduous work is almost impossible, and, if gone through, seriously interferes with the health of the students. Another suggestion made in this article is that the number of guards in the examination-hall should be increased, so as to make efficient supervision possible. The examination-hall is now so overcrowded with candidates, and the number of guards is so small, that talking and even copying can, and does, easily go on. If a small remuneration were allowed to each of the guards, there would be no difficulty in having the work of supervision properly conducted.

#### LOCAL.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
December 8th, 1879.

24. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 3rd December, directs the attention of Government to the increasing loss of cattle and human life caused by ravages of man-eating tigers in the villages bordering upon the dense jungle in Komarpore, under police outpost Bholarhat, in the Maldah district. The local authorities are asked to call upon the proprietors of this jungle to undertake its clearance.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 13th December 1879.